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Art Unit 3729
Serial No.: 10/783,678Reply to Office Action of: 05/03/2006
Attorney Docket No.: K35R1672.D1

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 14-21 are pending in the present Application. In this response, Applicants cancel Claims 15, 18, and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer. The Examiner objects to informalities in the Title, Related Applications section, Abstract, and Claim 14 of the present Application. The Examiner also rejects Claims 14-16, 18-19, and 21 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,608,593 issued to Kim *et al.* (*Kim*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,766,743 issued to Fujikata *et al.* (*Fujikata*). Claim 17 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kim* in view of *Fujikata* and further in view of Japanese Patent Publication JP 57-108265 and U.S. Patent No. Re32,464 issued to Aine, while Claim 20 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kim* in view of *Fujikata* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,667,879 issued to Haji-Sheikh. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and objections.

OBJECTIONS FOR INFORMALITIES:

Applicants have replaced the title of the present Application with one deemed more descriptive by the Examiner. Applicants have amended the Related Applications section to state that the parent application of the present Application has issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,721,142 as requested by the Examiner. In response to another request by the Examiner, Applicants have also amended the Abstract to describe steps of a method of fabrication of a slider in a single paragraph of less than 150 words. Finally, Applicants have amended Claim 14 to include a "said" that was inadvertently omitted from Claim 14 in response to the Examiner's observation that no article was included before "second ferromagnetic layer." As all of the informalities pointed out by the Examiner have now been addressed, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103(a):

Claim 14, as amended, recites "recessing said proximal end of said non-

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magnetic metal layer from the air bearing surface of the slider to form at least one recessed area," "applying a layer of protective material to said proximal ends proximal to the air-bearing surface of the slider of said first ferromagnetic layer, said second ferromagnetic layer, and said antiferromagnetic layer at the air-bearing surface of the slider," and "filling said at least one recessed area with protective material to a depth such that at least a portion of the protective material will remain in the recessed area when said proximal ends are drive burnished." The *Kim-Fujikata* combination fails to teach, suggest, or disclose the quoted limitations. The Examiner asserts that *Kim* shows recessing a proximal end of a non-magnetic metal layer from a disk surface in Fig. 6 with the spacer layer 106. However, in the configuration of *Kim*, the end of the top ferromagnetic layer 108 is also recessed, so that the top ferromagnetic layer no longer has a proximal end proximal to the air-bearing surface of the slider to which the protective material is applied, nor is the proximal end of the top ferromagnetic layer 108 drive burnished. Thus, *Kim* fails to teach or suggest every limitation of Claim 14, and none of the other references cited by the Examiner remedy this deficiency. Because the *Kim-Fujikata* combination does not teach, suggest, or disclose each and every limitation of Claim 14, the *Kim-Fujikata* does not render Claim 14 or its dependent claims obvious. Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 14 and its dependent claims.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and/or remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and request reconsideration of the rejections. If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Applicants respectfully request that a two-month extension of time be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any required fees associated with this Communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1055.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 3, 2006

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